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Rev. 1/67



MD-30,191

# Careers In Soil Conservation Service

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
U. S. Department of Agriculture May 1956  
Miscellaneous Publication No. 717



## Make Soil and Water Conservation Your Career

- Enroll in the Nation's dynamic action program to protect and improve our soil and water resources.
- Dedicate your training, abilities, and enthusiasm to work that is vital to the welfare of all Americans.
- Help solve the basic conservation problems of the Nation's farms and ranches and upstream watersheds.
- Enjoy the satisfaction that comes from public service in a great cause along with the opportunity for personal advancement.

BE A PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATIONIST  
IN THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

*Soil Conservation Service needs*  
CAREER PERSONNEL  
Trained in

Soil Conservation • Range Conservation

Engineering • Agronomy

Soils • Biology

Agricultural Economics • Geology

Woodland Conservation • and related sciences  
(Forestry)

*Soil Conservation Service offers*

- Creative, challenging outdoor work.
- On-the-job training by recognized authorities in the science of soil and water conservation.
- A promotion-from-within policy that assures opportunity for advancement.
- The advantages of Federal civil-service employment.
- Opportunity to gain broad experience in all phases of soil and water conservation or to specialize in one technical field.

# What the Soil Conservation Service Does

The Soil Conservation Service is the Department of Agriculture's technical arm of action for soil and water conservation. Basic jobs of the Service are:

- A national soil and water conservation program through soil conservation districts organized under State law and controlled by farmers and ranchers.
- Watershed protection and flood prevention.
- The National Cooperative Soil Survey.
- Flood-damage reduction in 11 major watersheds.
- The agricultural phase of water-utilization projects in the Western States.
- Snow surveys for water-supply forecasting in the Western States.

KAN-1518







SC-D27-28

## Soil Conservationist

Helps farmers and ranchers prepare a conservation plan that provides for the use and treatment of their land according to its needs and capability, and that is adapted to the type of operation the individual wishes to follow. Gives onsite technical assistance where needed to apply the practices in the plans, such as terracing, stripcropping, contour farming, and establishing permanent vegetation.

**Qualifications.**—A college degree with a major in soil conservation or a closely related agricultural science. Farm or ranch background required.

## Range Conservationist

Helps ranchers and livestock farmers to determine the suitability of their land for the production of forage and other crops, and to develop conservation plans that will insure the use of the conservation practices needed to improve the condition of their ranges and pastures. Gives onsite technical assistance to landowners on reseeding, noxious plant control, water development, proper forage utilization, and systems of range management to increase forage production and protect and improve the soil and water resources.

**Qualifications.**—A college degree with specified courses in range management and allied fields as described in the examination announcement. Ranch or farm background required.



MD-30,192

## Soil Scientist

Collects information about the soil through examination and records the information on maps and as field notes. Presents the information for use by farmers and ranchers and technical specialists in other fields.

**Qualifications.**—College degree with a major in soils or a closely related subject and with at least 10 semester hours in soils.

CAL-7022





# Engineer

Designs and supervises construction of: earth-fill and reinforced-concrete dams for flood-prevention and water-storage dams; spillways, drop structures, outlets, and erosion-control, water-control and water-supply structures; drainage, irrigation, terraces, and water-disposal systems; streambank-protection works, canals, pipelines, diversions, and waterways. Makes hydrologic studies.

**Qualifications.**—College degree in civil or agricultural engineering with major emphasis on hydraulics, hydrology, structural design, drainage, or irrigation. Qualifying experience in professional engineering work may be substituted for a degree.

IDA-45,003



NEB-1755





CAL-6945

## Plant Materials Technician

Looks for and gathers seeds and plants for use in soil conservation; evaluates plants (grasses, legumes, shrubs, and trees) at plant materials centers and in field plantings to determine their growth and seed habits, vigor, cold and drought resistance, cultural requirements, and range of soil and climatic adaptation. Selected plants are increased for specialized conservation uses, such as grassed waterways, wildlife shelter and food, wind barriers, and others.

Qualifications.—A college degree with a major in agronomy, range conservation, horticulture, or other plant science.

## Agronomist

Gives technical guidance on agronomic problems to SCS employees and farmers and ranchers who are carrying out soil and water conservation programs. Interprets soil and crop experimental data for field use of Service personnel and land owners and operators who are planning and applying farm and ranch conservation plans. Conducts field trials to evaluate adaptability and handling of grasses and legumes useful in soil and water conservation. Determines methods of establishing herbaceous vegetation for soil and water conservation purposes.

Qualifications.—A college degree with a major in agronomy.

# Biologist

Gives technical guidance and training to SCS employees in biological principles and practices that make cropland, grazing land, woodland, and farm and ranch waters produce fish and wildlife. Formulates and develops biological methods and standards, converts new knowledge into technical recommendations, and assembles and makes available other information relating to agricultural fish and wildlife that is of use to SCS employees and to land owners and operators who are carrying out soil conservation programs on their land.

**Qualifications.**—A college degree with major study in zoology, wildlife management, or a closely related field of biology.

# Woodland Conservationist

Gives technical guidance, training, and other assistance in woodland management to SCS employees. Develops technical standards in forestry for use of Service employees who provide assistance to land owners and operators in the management of their woodlands as part of coordinated soil and water conservation programs for their land. Interprets forestry techniques and experimental data for field use. Helps to evaluate soil-tree relationships and determine woodland-management practices in relation to specific soil or site conditions.

**Qualifications.**—A college degree with major study in forestry.

MICH-616









TEX-47,898

## Geologist

Investigates structural sites, sedimentation sources, rates and damage, and locates sources of water supply.

Qualifications.—College degree with a major in geology with specified courses as described in the examination announcement.

## Agricultural Economist

Collects and analyzes economic data. Estimates benefits that may accrue from improvement work, costs and damages, and makes cost-benefit analysis of proposed improvements.

Qualifications.—A college degree in agricultural economics with specified courses as described in the examination announcement.

TEX-283-6







IDA-25,174

## Conservation Aid

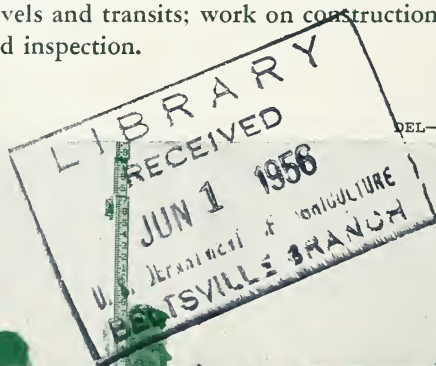
Helps professional conservationists work up conservation farm plans. Helps farmers and ranchers establish measures called for in conservation plans.

Qualifications.—Experience in conservation farming. Farm or ranch background required.

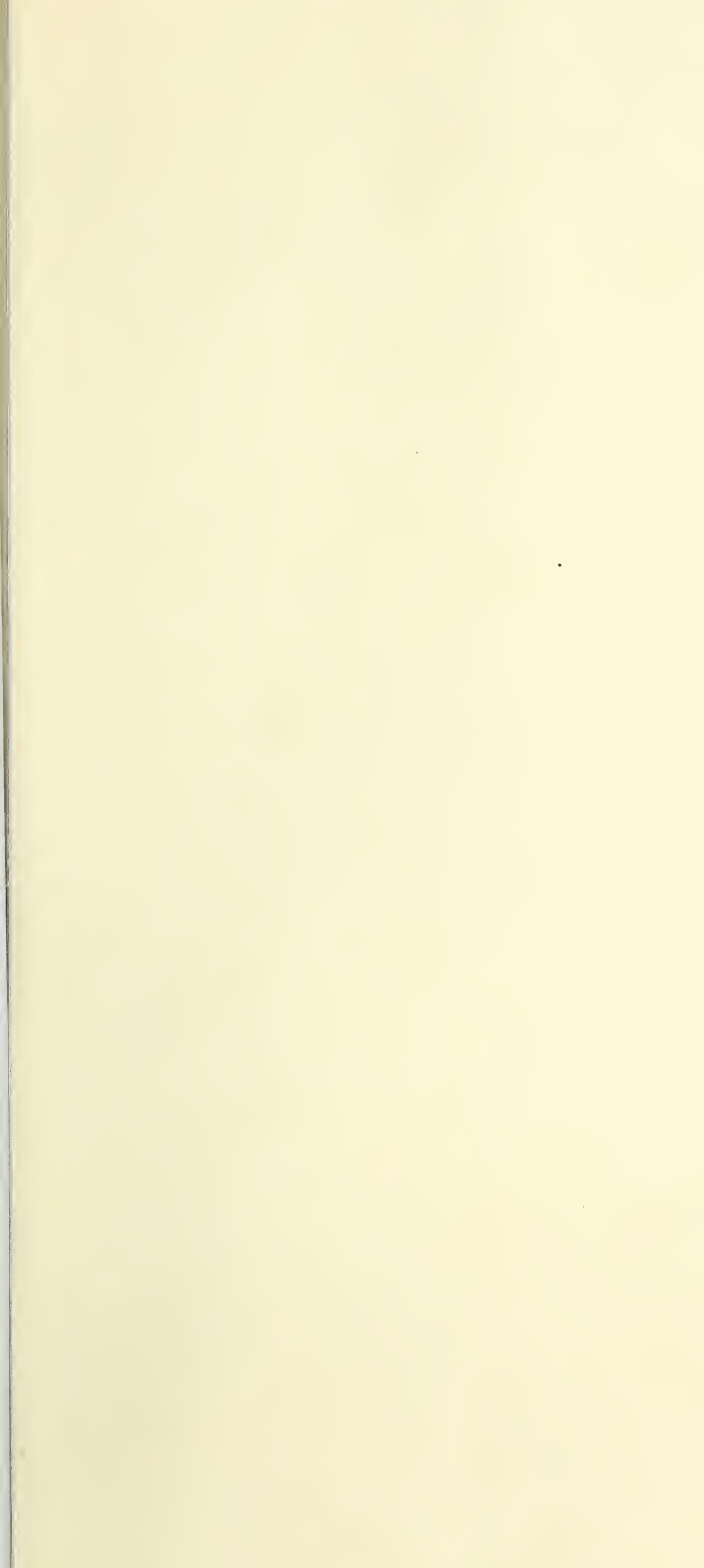
## Engineering Aid

Helps engineers with surveys, plotting notes, layout work in the field, and inspection of construction operations.

Qualifications.—Experience on survey crews running levels and transits; work on construction, layout, and inspection.



DEL-10,321



# Employment Facts

*Information.*—Ask your college placement officer or postmaster, or write to the nearest Soil Conservation Service office, for the announcement of the SCS examination in which you are interested and an application blank.

*How to apply.*—If you have the right qualifications, fill out the application (Form 57) carefully, and mail it as directed in the announcement. The announcement will state whether a written examination is required.

*Work locations.*—You may work at any one of several thousand locations in the United States and at some locations in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Your college placement officer will have a list of the main offices of SCS where you can get additional information.

*Training.*—SCS provides excellent opportunities for intensive and specialized training under competent, experienced technical men, both on the job and in group training centers.

*Advancement.*—SCS has an organized "promotion-from-within" policy. There is a continuous flow upward through the ranks.

*Benefits.*—SCS employees are under Federal civil service. Advancement is based wholly on merit. Employees are eligible for many benefits, such as sick and annual leave, periodic salary increases, group life insurance at a nominal rate, disability compensation if injured in line of duty, and liberal retirement annuities.



